

ROBUST AND FLEXIBLE GROUP STRUCTURE

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A robust and flexible group structure is described. The group structure is well suited for managing entitlement and security in a network. Moreover, the group structure solves the problems associated with conventional management products. The group structure is designed and implemented with an architecture that provides various desirable capabilities. The group structure has a clear group/group component concept and architecture for business use and IT (information technology) implementation. Moreover, the group structure is modular/component based, which provides the most flexibility and reusability. In addition, the group structure provides a choice of easy group definition or complex, robust group manipulation. Also, the group structure has a clear and easy process to define and maintain group ownership and scope, for example, private groups and public groups. Moreover, the group structure simplifies the task of organizing groups into different hierarchies.

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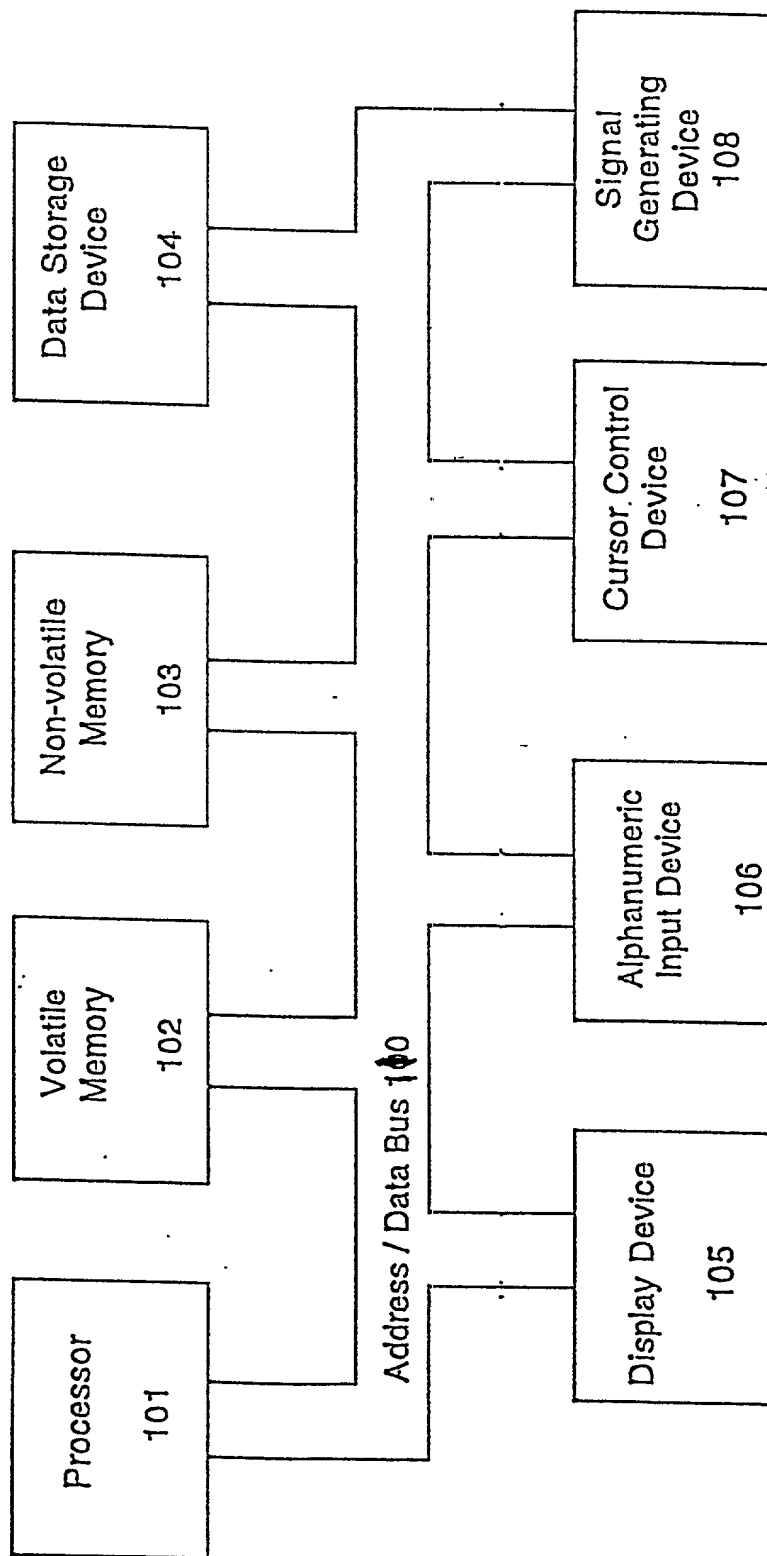


Drawings

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FIGURE 1



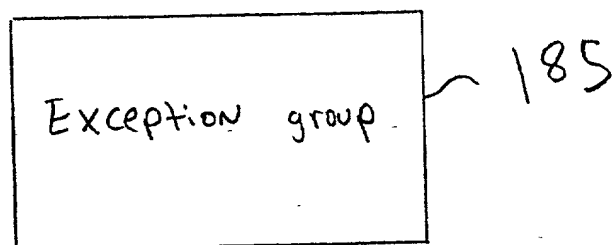
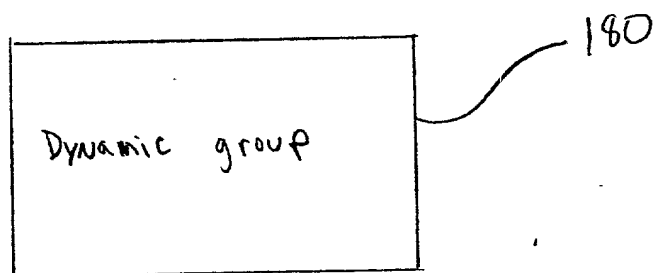


Figure 1A

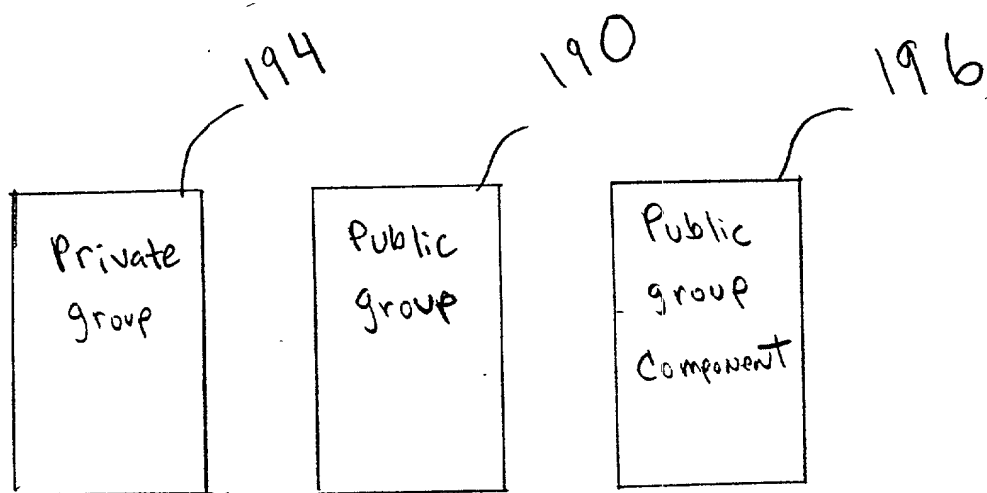


Figure 1B

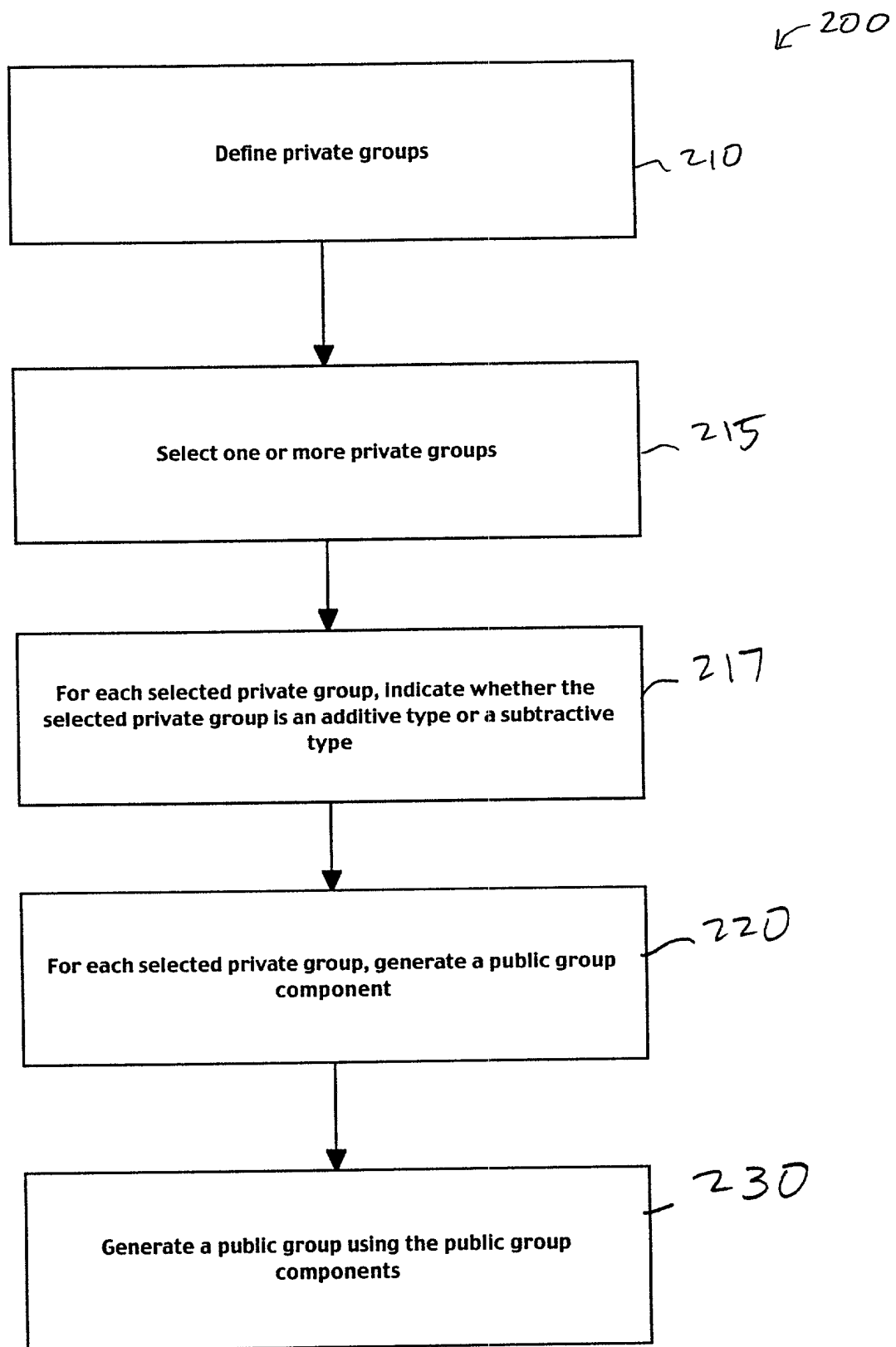


Figure 2

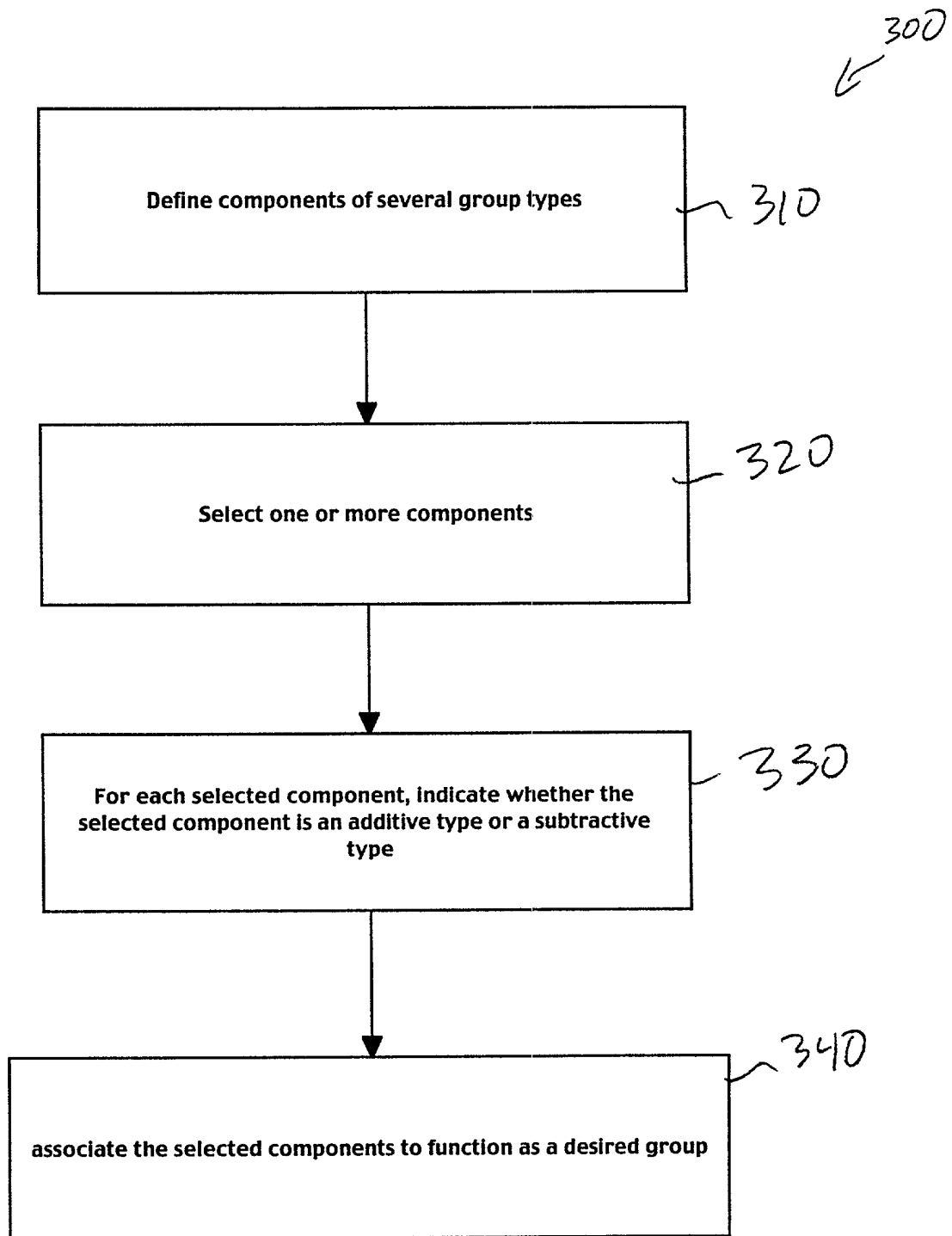


Figure 3